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Attorney Docket No. MP/143

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Walter
Appl. No. : 09/369,231
Filed : August 5, 1999
Title : Surface Modified Expanded
Polytetrafluoroethylene Devices and
Methods of Producing the Same
Group Art Unit: 1771
Examiner : H. Vo

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark
Office on June 5, 2003.*

Melanie Williams
Melanee Williams

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF FEBRUARY 6, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.111, applicant responds to the Office Action of February 6, 2003, with the present Request for Continued Examination, as follows.

Applicant hereby requests a three-month extension of time. The Examiner is hereby requested and authorized to charge the appropriate fee to our Deposit Account No. 07-1729.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of February 6, 2003, each of claims 1-7, 10, and 12-27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over United States Patent 4,734,112 to Okita et al. (hereafter "Okita et al."). As was explained and demonstrated at the interview on May 29, 2003, the Okita et al. reference does not teach or suggest the present application as currently claimed. In view of the following remarks and the attached Declaration of James Walter, the present invention as currently claimed is neither taught nor suggested by any of the references of record. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Vo for her time and helpful suggestions provided at the interview on May 29, 2003. During the interview applicant demonstrated and explained that the structure claimed in the present invention is markedly different over the structure that can be produced by the process described in the Okita et al. patent. As is reiterated in the attached